

Alexander, Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday

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Alexander's grandparents gave him a dollar. He wants to save it to buy walkie-talkies, but it's harder than he thinks.

Ages: 4 to 8 years

ATOS Reading Level:
3.4

Lexile: 570L

ISBN: 9780689711992

Copyright: 1978

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What happens to Alexander's dollar?

Topics: coin values, counting money, adding and subtracting money, saving money

Activities To Do Together:

Use the book *Alexander Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday* to explore coin values and counting money.

Before reading the book, help your child:

- Learn to identify pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters.
- Learn the values of pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters.

While reading the book with your child:

- Notice some of the ways that Alexander lost or spent his money.
- Talk about the losses Alexander could have prevented.

When you have finished reading the story with your child, try the following:

- Compare different coins - How are they alike? How are they different?
- Practice counting money.
- Find combinations of coins that are equal to a dime.
- Find combinations of coins that are equal to a quarter.
- Find several ways to make a dollar using different combinations of coins.
- Figure out how much money Alexander's brother Anthony had. Compare it to the amount of money Nicholas had. Who had more?



Questions for Mathematical Thinking:

1. Why do you think it was so hard for Alexander to save money to buy walkie talkies?
2. Alexander bought things, lost money, and paid fines with the money his grandparents gave him. What did he spend the most money on?
3. Is there something you want to save money to buy? If so, what is your strategy for doing it?
4. What do you think are good ways to earn and save money?
5. What advice would you give to Alexander if he asked for your opinion?

Early Math Project Resources:

Visit [Alexander Who Used to be Rich Last Sunday Activities](https://www.earlymathca.org/alexander-who-used-to-be-rich) (<https://www.earlymathca.org/alexander-who-used-to-be-rich>)

Follow this [link](#) or visit [earlymathca.org/external-resources](https://www.earlymathca.org/external-resources) for additional online resources

**Vocabulary**

Math words found in the story: dime, dollar, nickel, penny, quarter

Related Math Words: saving, spending, value

Words to Build**Reading**

Comprehension: lox, telephone booth, tokens, walkie-talkie

Spanish Title:

Alexander que era rico el domingo pasado

Copyright: 1989

ISBN: 9780758719188

Also available in:

German, Korean

Related Books: *A*

Chair for My Mother by Vera B. Williams; *You Can't Buy a Dinosaur with a Dime* by Harriet Ziefert

Click this link to the [World Catalog](#) or enter <https://bit.ly/45fm4fg> to find *Alexander Who Used to be Rich Last Sunday* in the public library.

Math Connections: *Alexander Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday* can be used to introduce and reinforce money concepts. If your child is unfamiliar with coin values look at a collection of coins together. Identify a penny, nickel, dime, and quarter. Talk about what is the same and what is different about the coins. Compare their sizes, shapes, colors, images, edges, and talk about the difference in their values. Explore how many pennies have the same value as a nickel, a dime, and a quarter.

If your child is already familiar with coins and their values, ask them to show you several different ways to represent 25 cents. Challenge them to make 25 cents with the greatest number of coins. Encourage them to try to find ways to make 25 cents with exactly 13 coins, with exactly 12 coins, with exactly 5 coins, and with exactly 3 coins. Ask your child if it is possible to make 25 cents with exactly 6 coins. Encourage your child to show you why it is or is not possible.

If your child is very comfortable with coins, challenge them to find all of the ways to make a dollar with coins. Ask them how many combinations they think there are. Ask them to prove if there were more or less combinations than they predicted. Ask them if they can find a way to record and organize all of the combinations of coins equal to a dollar so they will know when they have all the possible ways. Allow time to do this, there are more than 200 combinations!

Help your child set a money saving goal and talk about how much money could be saved weekly and how long it would take to reach their goal at that rate of saving. Consider visiting a local bank and establishing a savings account together.



Age Level	Related CA State Standards
Grade 1	Operations and Algebraic Thinking 1.OA.5 Relate counting to addition and subtraction (e.g., by counting on 2 to add 2). Number and Operations in Base Ten 1.NBT.4 Use place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract.
Grade 2	Number and Operations in Base Ten 2.NBT.5, 2.NBT.7 Use place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract. Measurement and Data 2.MD.8 Solve word problems involving dollar bills, quarters, dimes, nickels, and pennies.
Grade 3	Number and Operations in Base Ten 3.NBT.2 Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic.